

CITY OF JERSEY CITY

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Mayor Healy Announces that Jersey City Has Achieved Sustainable Jersey® Silver-Level Certification

JERSEY CITY – **Mayor Jerramiah T. Healy announced today** that the City of Jersey City has met the rigorous requirements to achieve Sustainable Jersey certification at the Silver-level – currently the highest level a municipality can obtain. Jersey City is one of only eight New Jersey municipalities that have attained the Silver-level certification. Sustainable Jersey’s participating communities represent over half the state’s municipalities and nearly 75 percent of its population.

Jersey City was honored at the Sustainable Jersey awards luncheon at the New Jersey League of Municipalities for achieving Silver Certification as well as for receiving the 2011 Cooperation Award from Sustainable Jersey. Planning Director Robert Cotter and Supervising Planner Maryann Buccicarter accepted the award.

“Jersey City has been a pioneer in implementing sustainability measures and green initiatives, beginning in 2009 when the administration introduced and the City Council adopted four green ordinances,” said **Mayor Healy**. “Since then, the City has been working to not only make our municipal practices more environmentally-friendly, but to also support measures for residents to live a greener lifestyle.”

To become Sustainable Jersey certified at the Silver-level, Jersey City submitted documentation to show it had completed a balance of the required sustainability actions, meeting a minimum of 350 action points. In addition to reaching 350 points, Jersey City created a Green Committee and had to select at least three out of seven priority action options: 1) energy audits for municipal buildings, 2) a sustainable land use pledge, and 3) a fleet inventory.

“It’s quite an accomplishment to become Sustainable Jersey certified, especially at the Silver-level,” said **Pam Mount, Chair of the Sustainable Jersey Board of Trustees**. “The 2011 certified towns have joined a first rate group of municipalities that are leading the way with impressive sustainability initiatives in New Jersey while providing a model for towns across the United States.”

Certified towns excelled in areas such as improving energy efficiency and health and wellness, reducing waste, sustaining local economies, protecting natural resources, and addressing diversity and equity.

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“These are exceptional towns with outstanding programs. We’ve been amazed to see how this program has catalyzed community spirit and fostered grassroots leadership, cross-sector creativity and collaboration across New Jersey,” said **Donna Drewes, Co-Director of the Institute for Sustainability Planning & Governance at the Municipal Land Use Center at The College of New Jersey** (MLUC@TCNJ) and Sustainable Jersey founding partner.

Randall Solomon also a Co-Director at the Institute for Sustainability Planning & Governance congratulated the certified towns. “Our certified towns are municipal leaders that are making extraordinary contributions toward the long-term goal of a sustainable New Jersey and world.”

In 2009, Jersey City began a path toward Sustainable Jersey Certification by adopting an aggressive package of four green ordinances. Since then, through various projects, executive orders and resolutions, Jersey City has earned all 350 points, qualifying them for the Silver level at their first attempt for certification.

About Sustainable Jersey

[Sustainable Jersey](#) is a certification program for municipalities in New Jersey. Launched in 2009, Sustainable Jersey is a nonprofit, nonpartisan organization that supports community efforts to reduce waste, cut greenhouse gas emissions, and improve environmental equity. Sustainable Jersey is empowering New Jersey towns to build a better world for future generations. It provides tools, training and financial incentives to support and reward communities as they pursue sustainability programs. New Jersey is the first state in the nation to have a comprehensive sustainability program for communities that links certification with strong state and private financial incentives, and a fully resourced program of technical support and training. Sustainable Jersey is 100 percent voluntary and each town can choose whether it wants to get certified and the actions it wants to do in order to achieve enough points to get certified.

Currently, 62 percent of New Jersey’s towns and cities (350 towns across all 21 counties) have registered to become Sustainable Jersey certified. The program has distributed over half a million dollars to New Jersey communities to support an estimated 1,500 actions taken "on the ground" to make communities more livable, environmentally friendly and prosperous. Nearly 75 percent of New Jersey’s population lives in registered/ certified Sustainable Jersey communities.

Sustainable Jersey’s partners include the New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection and the New Jersey Board of Public Utilities. The policies and other substantive contents of the program are developed through a transparent participatory process involving NGOs, academics, government, and the business community. Program sponsors include the Geraldine R. Dodge Foundation, PSEG Foundation, New Jersey Natural Gas, Church and Dwight, Covanta Energy, Elizabethtown Gas, United Water, Verizon, Atlantic City Electric, South Jersey Gas, New Jersey Food Council, Waste Management of New Jersey, Terhune Orchards, EcoMatters, Concord Engineering and Alteris Renewables.

All media inquiries should be directed to Jennifer Morrill, Press Secretary to Mayor Jerramiah T. Healy at 201-547-4836 or 201-376-0699.///